



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF SPEECH AT OFFICIAL LUNCH, CYPRUS, 26 JANUARY 1987

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PM: Mr President, Madam *Kyprianou*, Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I think you are aware, Mr President, that the brief duration of our stay in your country is no indication of any lack or small interest in this country. On the contrary, we are pleased to have the opportunity of being here for this period. I would mention to you, today is Australia's National Day. I do not do that to seek any congratulations from you, rather to make the point that we as a Nation have changed remarkably in the post-war period, and at the end of the last war, we were only a Nation of seven million people. We are now a Nation of sixteen million people. Of course we have had that very significant increase in our population because we have had one of the most massive

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immigration programs in history. People from many countries have added strength, diversity and richness to the nation of Australia and none would say the more significant part in that increasing strength, diversity and richness that have the some 50,000 or more people of Cypriot origin. The characteristic of that post-war development and growth has been the demonstrated capacity of people from different ethnic and cultural background to be able to live together in peace, and I am pleased to say that in our community that has been true of people of both Greek and Turkish Cypriot origin. And so it is because in this day we as Australians think with pride of the capacity of people with different backgrounds to live together in the new environment of Australia that we have perhaps, Mr President, a particular sense of tragedy with you, of what is happening at this time in Cyprus. You and your Ministers have been kind enough today to share at some length with us your views, both of the nature of the problem that confronts you and of what you see as the appropriate avenues for a just, peaceful and durable resolution of these problems. You have been kind enough to indicate that over the years, Australia has been identified both within the United Nations and within the Commonwealth with attempts defined a way to resolve the tragedy that does exist here, and I have taken this opportunity today, and I take it again now of reaffirming our continuing support that Australia will give to the process of achieving a resolution of this pursuit. We understand your consideration. We believe that Resolution 541 and 550 United Nations provide the basis for such a resolution. We wish to see the Secretary-General of the United Nations continuing his efforts, and I am pleased to have been told by you that his

representative will be here in the early days of February to review again those processes. I can assure you that you and the people of Cyprus will continue to have our understanding and we hope that through our understanding and we hope that through those processes under the aegis of the Secretary-General that we can produce once again the situation once again in Cyprus that has characterised which as you have gone out of your way to emphasise, as earlier days a vote of war and peace when people both of Greek and Turkish origin have been able to live harmoniously together. That is going to take dedication, commitment and hard work on the part of the people concerned, the parties concerned, and we for our part have seen today the depth of your commitment and integrity and we certainly wish you well in the difficult, arduous days ahead. Our discussions, Mr President, have not been confined, although the majority of our time has been associated with discussing the question you and I have just referred, but I am pleased to say that we have just recognised referred, that I am pleased to say that we have both recognised that the bilateral relations between our two countries are in excellent shape and we have mutually reaffirmed our commitment to further strengthen those relations. I have also taken the opportunity Mr President of saying to you, and I say it again how much we appreciate the strength and commitment of the action that Cyprus has taken in the international drug traffic, taken the steps to do all that it can to cease that hideous traffic, this is an issue to of concern to us in Australia we do appreciate the strength and commitment of your position there. After all the reasons that I have alluded to, Mr President I thank you again for the warmth of your welcome, I take this

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opportunity of reaffirming the strength of friendship between us, and I give you the commitment of Australia that we will do all that we can to assist the efforts under the aegis of the United Nations to see that the sad division that exists is brought to an end and that the people, all the people of Cyprus are once again able to live in peace and constructive harmony. Ladies and Gentlemen, I would ask you to rise and join me in the toast that I offer to the President and the people of Cyprus and to continuing bonds of the people of Cyprus and of Australia.